

10-22-1970

From/To: Larry Calvin (Chalk's reply filed first)

Larry Calvin

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October 22, 1970

Mr. Larry Calvin
Western Hills Church of Christ
8800 Chaplin Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Dear Larry:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading your letter and savoring some of the struggle you are experiencing. You did not sound "crazy" at all, but sounded like a person who is going through a very mature spiritual revolution. This quest for deeper faith is obviously going to make of you an even more effective instrument of God. I pray that your search and discovery will continue and become even more shattering and revolutionary in its impact on you and so many others that God can and will reach through you.

Unfortunately, my schedule in the next few weeks is pretty tight. I could be available and would like nothing better than to spend as much of the day as you men can allow on either Monday, November 9, or Monday, November 23. Let me know as to which of these dates you choose to come. I will pray that God can pour out His fullest blessing on us that day as we fellowship, study, pray, and talk.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc



WESTERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

8800 CHAPLIN RD.



FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116



PHONE: CI 4-0132

Dear John Allen,

Did you ever get to feeling like you just had to talk to someone? Well, that's the way two or three of us who have weekly fellowship together are at this point.

We have been meeting together now for about a year - studying the Bible as never before, reading incessantly, and now its come to the point where our hunger after God's Word is a frightening thing 'cause every time we pick it up, it convicts us of things we ought to be doing, but are so bogged down in budgets, programs, cards, statistics, meetings, etc. that we find ourselves longing for release - so we can be about Christ's work.

That probably sounds crazy to you. But, anyway, we were wondering if you might be free Monday, Oct. 26 or any Monday following (with the exception of Nov. 2⁹⁻²³). We would like to drive out and talk to you - you're one of

very few people that we feel would really
empathize with our current trauma.
And it is a trauma - at least
in my life. I'm daily becoming convinced that
the Lord is aiming me toward something outside
of a "local work" situation. Even as great
as this congregation is - and it is great,
there are still some real questions in my
mind as to whether or not the current system
is the Lord's Way. I'm not a rebel by
nature and I know that change merely for the
sake of change is not good. We should never
bow to the Idol of change. But, John Allen,
my heart is torn out when I see souls
being sacrificed on the altars of "Wednesday
Night Services" or "Proper Programs & Procedures"
or any one of the many idols that we currently
bow to - many of which are offshoots of the
Reformation movement even though our cry is
for restoration.

I bet you think I'm the
craziest, most mixed up kid you've heard
from in a long time. The only way

I know how to explain what's happening in my life & that a crucifixion is taking place - my old "self" with all its beliefs, traditions etc. - everything. It's frightening & painful.

I very seldom ever read a passage of scripture but that I interpret it in a different light from what I did 3 or 4 years ago.

I'm really scared, John Allen.

Caused I'm convinced that - as open as Western Hills is - if a real restoration (at least an abolition of a few of our destructive "idols") can't take place here - I don't think I'll ever be able to engage in "local work" again.

I've no doubt that the Lord sent Joan & I to W. H. There have been a great number of people that our lives would have never been the same - had we not met them. And, the work is "going well" by our normal standards. But I must resolve this current trauma.

I know you'll find it hard to believe that, but even in the midst of this

anguish I'm happier than ever before
in my life - for the first time in 12 years
as a Christian I can really say I know
whom I've believed - He is able!

I know, whatever the future
holds - it's His will - I guess I'd like
to talk to you just to see your feelings
about what I've described here. You seem
to be making it fine in a "local work" situation
& I want to know what your secret is & where
I'm going astray in my disgruntlements with
things as they are.

Could you let me know very soon
whether or not you might be free to talk
Monday the 26th or some Monday thereafter.

I'll be anxious to hear from
you. May God richly bless your ministry.

In Christ,
Larry Calvin